

From: BJCROSSMB@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/18/02 9:02pm
Subject: MICROSOFT SETTLEMENT

Robert W Cross
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Myrtle Beach, SC 29572-4205

January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am without a doubt in favor of Microsoft. In fact, this has been the case since the very beginning and no element of the litigation against them has caused me to feel otherwise. If anything, this legal action against them has only strengthened my respect for this highly progressive company. Microsoft has given a true example of professionalism, diplomacy and fortitude. The government on the other hand has given the people reason for confusion and doubt. Confusion because of the distortion of the concept of free enterprise and doubt in the government's ability to reach expeditious and fair resolutions of complex matters.

Microsoft has chosen to accept restrictions and obligations that extend to products and technologies that were not at issue in the lawsuit. They have also agreed to broad terms involving aspects of Microsoft's business and product development that were not found to be unlawful by the Court of Appeals. I think this is a clear indication of that Microsoft is willing to compromise with the government.

This lawsuit has caused severe damage to the economy and has drastically reduced production in the software industry. Putting an end to this protracted legal tussle by accepting the settlement will have a multitude of benefits. I hope that my views and those of others will help bring this matter long awaited closure.

Sincerely,

Robert W Cross

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cc: Senator Strom Thurmond